(a) in which year construction of Mahadev-Tolloi-Pfutsero Road (Manipur-Nagaland) was proposed and included in Work Programme;

(b) by when the construction of the road will actually be taken up;

(c) the causes for the delay in taking up the work, so far; and

(d) the agency which will execute the work?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The construction of Mahadev-Tolloi-Pfutsero Road was proposed in financial year 1999-2000. It has not been included in the Works Programme.

(b) and (c) The work can be taken up only after appropriate approvals. In the Tenth Plan, the proposal for the stretch of Road from Mahadev to Tolloi for a length of 70 Kms. has been proposed to be taken up at a cost of Rs. 45 Cr. The work can be considered for approval and taken up only after the Planning Commission gives its opinion.

(d) The Agency for execution of the work will be finalized after the receipt of appropriate approvals.

Status of PM's Commitment

442. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Prime Minister's commitment as per the Shillong declaration of January, 2000;

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure funds availability to meet the disbursement targets set for NEDF and benefits derived so far from the disbursement;

(c) the status of RIDF targets set for NABARD in the declaration and the achievements; and

(d) the reasons for any shortfall and the steps taken to meet the commitments?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Prime Minister had announced an Agenda for Socio-economic Development of North-Eastern States and

Sikkim at Shillong on 22nd January, 2000. The Projects/Schemes under the Agenda relate to infrastructural development in the sectors of Power, Roads, Airports, Health and other schemes of employment generation etc. Programmes and schemes are at various stages of implementation. The detailed status of implementation of programmes can be seen at website pmindia.nic.in

(b) The announcement made by the Prime Minister on 22nd January 2000 set the annual target for disbursement by the North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI) of at least Rs. 50 crores per year in next few years. NEDFI has disbursed Rs. 50.46 crores during 2000-01 and Rs. 50.79 crores during 2001-02. A provision of Rs. 15.40 crore has been made for NEDFI in the current financial year in the budget of the Department of Development of North-Eastern Region. The Corporation has disbursed a sum of Rs. 137.75 crore as on 31.03.02 leading to an additional investment of Rs. 354 crore and employment generation for 7400 persons in the North-Eastern Region.

(c) and (d) The Agenda also includes provision of Rs. 500 crores for Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for North-East and Sikkim. Schemes for Rs. 1025.74 crores have been sanctioned by NABARD till 31st May, 2002 and Rs. 459.90 crores has been disbursed. The percentage of the disbursements made to the sanctions is only about 38.6%. Some of the problems being experienced in utilization of funds are delay in land acquisition and non provision of budgeted outlays and matching funds. Workshops have been conducted by NABARD to sort out the constraints faced by the North-Eastern States in preparing and submitting suitable projects for saction and availing of loans from RIDF and on preparation of project proposals for sanction under RIDF.

Sale of ITDC Hotel at Kovalam

443. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how for the efforts to sell the ITDC Hotel at Kovalam have progressed;

(b) the area under possession of ITDC Hotel at Kovalam;